

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-02

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TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

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AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PO

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

1. FORD NOMINATION: GERALD FORD'S NOMINATION AS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WAS WIDELY REPORTED, BUT ONLY SLIGHTLY COMMENTED ON, BY AUGUST 19 AFTERNOON AND AUGUST 20 MORNING PRESS. ONE OF THE FEW COMMENTATORS WAS "O SEculo's" PROLIFIC "MONITOR" (MANUEL RODRIGUES), WHO WROTE: "THIS CHOICE, RECEIVED BY MANY WITH A FEELING OF RELIEF, WILL PERHAPS ONLY SLIGHTLY INFLUENCE THE RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER 2 ELECTION IN WHICH, IF THE SITUATION DOES NOT CHANGE MUCH IN THE MEANTIME, JIMMY CARTER SEEMS DESTINED TO A RESOUNDING VICTORY."

2. NORTH KOREAN INCIDENT: DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INCIDENT CAUSED BY NORTH KOREAN KILLING OF TWO U.S. MILITARY OFFICERS CONTINUED TO APPEAR IN AUGUST 20 LISBON PRESS, WITH CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE OF OFFICIAL U.S. STATEMENTS AND PROTESTS. HEADLINES GENERALLY NOTED THE ALERT STATUS OF AMERICAN AND NORTH KOREAN MILITARY FORCES. PRO-COMMUNIST "O DIARIO" WHICH FAVORED THE NORTH KOREAN VERSION OF THE INCIDENT IN ITS AUGUST 20 EDITION, WROTE

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O AUGUST 19: "IF THE 'INCIDENT' HAPPENED AS IT WAS

DESCRIBED BY THE WESTERN NEWS AGENCIES--WHICH GIVE THE NORTH AMERICAN VERSION--ALL THIS INDIGNATION, ALL THESE ACCUSATIONS, WOULD BE CORRECT.. BUT ONLY RECENTLY, THE 'INCIDENT' WHICH ORIGINATED THE BUTCHERY PRACTICED DURING THE VIETNAM WAR WAS STAGED BY THE NORTH AMERICANS THEMSELVES... WITH SUCH ANTECEDENTS, DISTRUST OF THESE VERSIONS OF THE KOREAN INCIDENT IS LEGITIMATE."

3. COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE: LOW-KEY COVERAGE OF THE COLOMBO NO-ALIGNED CONFERENCE CONTINUED IN AUGUST 20 PRESS. NOTED WERE: THE OIL EMBARGO AGAINST FRANCE AND ISRAEL SUGGESTED AT THE CONFERENCE, AS WELL AS PLO REQUEST FOR THE EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM UN. AUGUST 19 "JORNAL NOVO" PUBLISHED A FULL PAGE SYMPATHETICALLY DETAILING CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AND OBJECTIVES OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, BUT A DIFFERENT EFFECT WAS PRODUCED BY THE LARGE-POINT HEADLINE WHICH FROWNED ON "ONE MILLION CONTOS FOR FOUR DAYS OF LUXURY".

4. VOICE OF AMERICA: AUGUST 19 "DIARIO POPULAR" AND "DIANNO DE LISBOA" AND AUGUST 20 "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" CARRIED USIS DENIAL OF PORTUGUESE NEWS AGENCY (ANOP) REPORT THAT VOICE OF AMERICA WAS PLANNING TO SET UP TRANSMITTER IN PORTUGAL.
JORDAN

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